trade, the crop size was reviewed and a crop of 15.18 M. kgs. was authorised afresh in NBS & CBS regions. Total crop finally authorised is 67.86 M. kgs. as against about 103 M. kgs. authorised last year.

Minimum Export Price (MEP) for FCV tobacco has been abolished as a measure of trade liberalisation in the long term interests of the tobacco trade. It has been decided not to re-introduce (MEP) for toaacco, particularly current scenario of over-supply in the international market.

Time Bound Export Policy by State Governments

337. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked State Governments to draw up time-bound export policy within two months in order to double exports by States, with special schemes in focussed areas, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 25th November, 1993.

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating which States have so far set up separate export-promotion cells/apex level councils boards to ensure special attention to export efforts and which States have not done so;

(c) whether Government are aware that many exporters continue to express difficulties in getting allotment of land or uninterrunted power supply and incidence of State levies like Octroi, State Excise and other inter-State barriers which inhibit export-production and free movement of export goods; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken so far to resolve such issues, so as to enable the exporters to accelerate exports and whether Government propose to accord "Exports" as the lead and priority-sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The State Governments have been requested to draw upon export policy spelling out specific incentives and cost effective measures to support export production in the States.

A statement showing the institutional set up created for exports by various States is enclosed. (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State Governments have been requested, from time to time, to exempt exports from State levies, power cuts and restrictive labour laws and create fora for continuous dialogue with the exporters. etc.

Statement

Export Promotion Cells/Directorate of Export Promotion in the State Secretariats have been created in the following States :—

Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Tamil Na du, Uttar Paradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan Orrissa and Bihar.

Export Corporations have been established in the following States :—

Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Jammu & Kashmir.

Boards/Apex Bodies under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers/Chief Secretaries and comprising both officials and non-officials have been set up in the following States :—

Haryana, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, Ahndhara Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.